GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1302
ANSWERED ON:26.11.2007
INCREASE IN TELE DENSITY
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the tele-density of each of the four mega cities as compared to the other similarly placed cities as well as the position of India vis-a-vis other countries of the world;

(b) whether in some countries local calls are not charged;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to increase the tele-density?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) The tele-density of India and each of its four mega cities, as on 31st October 2007, is as follows:

All India : 22.52%
Delhi : 100.73%
Chennai : 91.13%
Mumbai : 74.65%
Kolkata : 54.77%

The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) does not maintain city-level tele-density data. However, as per ITU`s statistics report of December 2006 (latest available) the tele-density in some of the countries of world is as given below:

Pakistan 25.32%

Bangladesh 14.03%

Sri Lanka 34.89%

Maldives 98.76%

China 62.62%

Indonesia 34.87%

South Africa 81.57%

Egypt 38.19%

Brazil 67.63%

Russia 111.57%

(b) & (c) No such instance has been found.

(d) The steps taken by the Government to increase the tele-density are as follows:

i) A non-lapsable Universal Service Obligation Fund (USOF) has been set up to provide support for expansion of telecommunication services in rural and remote areas. Both public and private sectors licensees are eligible for such support.

ii) A scheme has recently been launched by USO Fund to provide subsidy support for setting up and managing 7871 number of infrastructure sites (towers) spread over 500 districts in 27 states. About 2 lakh villages are likely to be covered under this scheme.

iii) Large-scale deployment of WLL network in the country has been planned by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (B SNL).

iv) BSNL is now laying cables upto 5 Kms of exchanges against the earlier standard of 2.5 Kms.

v) BSNL is expanding its GSM network to provide cellular connections.

vi) In addition, private operators are also providing telephones in the country.